



NRGSC News

1Q24 A Publication of the Northern Rio Grande Sporting Club No. 1

Upcoming Events

Be sure to check the [club calendar](#) for upcoming events, or if any range(s) are closed.

Message from the President

Welcome to the first issue of the NRGSC Newsletter! We are trying this format to improve communications, inform of upcoming events, highlight accomplishments, notify of upcoming projects with range closures, and clarify misunderstood issues without burdening you with multiple emails.

Our intent is to publish at least two newsletters per year. We want all section leaders and board members to be able to relay relevant information in a format that will allow members to have quick access to information they are most interested in. Content will evolve as we receive feedback about your interests.

All issues will be archived on the website so that you may go back to review clear and concise information.

Our recent club-wide survey proved to be a valuable source of feedback as we move forward into the new year. Most feedback and suggestions were positive, aligned well with the direction we're already headed, and identified some areas of confusion about simple rules. There were a few suggestions that would be nice, but just aren't financially feasible, as we attempt to keep membership fees as low as possible. There were a few complaints surrounding the seemingly increased rigidity of managing the range.

Please see the results of the survey posted on the club website.

We realize that some feel that our rules and oversight are tightening but we must in order to keep our range viable. We exist in a growing neighborhood. We all like the freedoms we enjoy at our honor system range, but we must exercise great care. The world has become much more litigious in recent years, our state is becoming less gun friendly, and liability insurance for gun ranges is not easy to come by. Each and every one of us members have a vested interest in doing everything we can to operate in a safe manner in order to keep NRGSC operational and strong moving forward. We are trying to offer everything we possibly can given the constraints we live under.

We've seen great improvement in how members respect our gem of a range. People are chipping in to help regularly by policing their brass, emptying trash, respecting and returning portable targets, picking up litter, and intentional damage has decreased significantly.

We definitely see these contributions. We're very grateful for these anonymous acts of goodwill. Thanks to everyone contributing to the overall effort. Even the smallest effort makes a big difference.

Paul Dowden, President

Rifle Range Steel Is Coming to NRGSC!

We have had **many** inquiries from members about putting steel on the rifle range. Well... it's coming! You may have noticed that back in September we constructed some temporary steel targets. This was done as a "proof of concept" to determine what configuration was safe, met the needs of our steel shooters, and was durable.

From that, Paul and Marshall are building more permanent steel target arrays - at 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards. They may be shot with any club allowed rifle caliber. Construction of the arrays is complete. These are very heavy and bulky and will require lots of hands to install - stay tuned for announcement of a big workday in early March. Please do not bring your own steel targets to any of the ranges. This is for safety considerations for both you and fellow members.



15"/10"/8" targets for the 500 yard array

What Shoots Where?

Although NRGSC offers a variety of shooting ranges, safety and insurance issues mandate that we have some restrictions that specify what type of firearms/calibers/targets can be used on each of our ranges. With the upcoming addition of steel targets on the rifle range, and the ability (soon) to shoot shotgun (birdshot through slugs) at Bay #3 of the pistol range, we will be updating the rule book to reduce ambiguity. Signs will be posted at the rifle and pistol ranges with this information.

NRGSC Approved Range Use

Range	Firearm(s) Allowed	Calibers Allowed	Targets Allowed
Shotgun	Shotgun	#7-1/2 shot (and smaller)	Clay targets Paper (on club provided patterning board)
Rifle	Rifle & Pistol	Any club allowed rifle or pistol caliber	Paper (on club provided or personal stands) Steel (on club provided arrays)
Pistol Bay #1	Pistol	Any club allowed pistol caliber	Paper (on club provided or personal stands) No Steel
Pistol Bay #2	Pistol	Any club allowed non-magnum pistol caliber	Dueling trees only
Pistol Bay #3	Pistol Shotgun	Any club allowed pistol caliber, birdshot, buckshot, slugs	Paper (on club provided or personal stands) Shotgun only on provided patterning frame. No Steel (for now, but planning for 2024)
Archery	Any bow	Only target arrowheads may be shot on club provided targets	Club provided or personal targets

- The firing of .50 BMG **anywhere** on club property is prohibited.
- Exceptions made to the above rules, only if specified in club approved matches.
- Any AR-type rifle is considered to be a rifle, regardless of stock or pistol configuration.
- Shooting at **anything** other than properly placed targets is strictly prohibited.

Rifle and Pistol Range Reports

Rifle Range Report

First of all, I'm excited to be able to convey information on this newsletter. There is a lot to report but I want to express my thanks for all the help and maintenance on YOUR range. Yes, you've taken ownership of it and it's still a work in progress.

We have a long list of improvements - completed, in progress, and planned.

The installation of water and electricity to the rifle range was a great effort and we are working to install range hot/cold range warning lights and an intercom system for range cease fire and safety.



Last year, we completed the modification to the new and improved stands for the 25, 50 and 75 yard targets.

The board approved the purchase of a target shed to store targets when not in use. Please return your targets/stands to the shed when you are done shooting.



A few members have expressed interest in expanding to a 1000-yard range. We have discussed lengthening the range but it is not economically feasible due to the massive amount of dirt work it would take to make this a safe situation. There is a huge arroyo past the 560-yard location and people can't be readily seen from the shooting positions. Water drainage and management would also have to be taken into consideration.

We estimate this project would cost in excess of \$50K to accommodate just a handful of shooters. At our current, low membership cost this isn't practical.

Apparently some member(s) have been improvising their own long range by placing steel targets far past the end of the current 560 yard range. Out of concern for safety, placing targets and shooting past the 560-yard berm is prohibited.

Recent snows have shown us that we need more base course in the rifle parking lot (as well as other spots at the club), which we hope to install this spring - funds and weather permitting.

Please remember, there are hiking trails to the east of our property and a neighborhood northeast of us. One unlucky round leaving our property could spell the end of NRGSC.

Thank you for your help and ownership. Standby, as there is much more to come!

Pistol Range Report

Pistol Bay# 1 is dedicated to pistol plinking.



Tired of just putting holes in paper? Try out the three new steel plate **dueling trees** in Pistol Bay #2! These were graciously built by member Raymond Smith.

Dueling Tree Rules

- 1) **Pistol Bay #2** is now for dueling tree use only. Do not place any other targets in this Bay.
- 2) Use the table to place your safe pistol and ammo.
- 3) Shoot only from immediately behind the table and the 10 yard marker.
- 4) The center tree is for .22 rimfire pistol only.
- 5) The left and right-hand trees can be used with any non-magnum pistol round that is a club-approved pistol caliber.

Pistol Bay #3 can now accommodate the same target stands and railroad tie bases as we have at the 25/50/75 yard bases on the rifle range. We are working toward setting up a shotgun target frame which will accomodate birdshot, buckshot, and slugs.



You may have noticed the new bright yellow spent brass containers placed around the rifle and pistol ranges.

- If you don't want to keep your recyclable brass, be sure to use the designated yellow containers.
- Unwanted steel cases should be placed in a trash receptacle.

•Any live rounds for disposal should be placed only in the new marked red receptacle at the rifle range, next to the target shed.

Again, a big thanks those who have helped with brass and trash pickup! More to come on the pistol range. We are currently evaluating:

- Erecting shaded structures at the pistol range (similar to the rifle range) and more base course.
- A house-type steel door for the shipping container to provide easier access to targets, stands, paint, and other equipment related to the pistol range.

I'm always open to suggestions and help. Be safe and enjoy!

Marshall Maez, Vice-President and Rifle Range Director



Archery News

Jerome Martinez has agreed to assume the role of Archery Range Director. Nothing finalized yet, but we are hoping to setup a friendly tournament once the weather allows. Stay tuned...

News from the Swede Ekberg Memorial Shotgun Range

Things have been very busy at the shotgun range this year! We have seen an increase in participation in all shotgun activities and invite anyone interested in participating or learning more about any of the shotgun disciplines to stop by and meet the members that are active in skeet, trap, 5-Stand, or shotgun patterning.



Barney Myers of Myers Steel completed a staircase and railing for the north container where we now have safe access to 2 trap machines utilized during our monthly 5 Stand matches.

David Krogdahl, Chris Fresquez, and John Gillis along with other members, have completed a reorganization of the 15 machines used in 5 Stand and developed a two-menu system such that during one week-end there is the potential for two different courses. This same crew has also done a stellar job repairing and maintaining all the machines.

The shotgun range sign was upgraded to include an opaque backing that made the wording on the sign much more visible, again thanks to Barney and Kelly Myers.

We purchased and installed two new skeet machines as well as repurposing the two old machines into the 5 Stand rotation.

We purchased a load of clay targets in April 2023. All storage containers were cleaned out, old targets were moved into the various houses for immediate use, and new targets were offloaded and stored. This supply is expected to last 2-3 years.



On November 11, 2023, a shotgun shooting clinic - with emphasis on trap and skeet shooting techniques - was held at the shotgun range. There were 10 participants. It was the first clinic that had been held since 2008. We hope to provide this sort of event again in the future. If you are interested in participating in a future event, please contact David Krogdahl or Chris Fresquez (contact info on the club website).

Denise Ekberg started up the Women's Shotgun Shooters group again after a 3-year hiatus. The group meets the first Saturday of each month at 10 am. Unfortunately, the weather has limited their time at the range, but they are looking forward to a fun spring and summer of shooting. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to contact Denise at dekberg879@gmail.com.

In January of 2024, the shotgun range will again be made available to the 4-H youth shotgun members from Santa Fe County, to practice for competitions at the county, state, and possibly the national level. They typically practice approximately twice a month on Sunday afternoons. Last year, approximately 30 youth were involved in this activity to hone their skills in both trap and skeet.

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(Shotgun continued)

One of our former youth shotgun shooters, and a member of the Los Alamos Young Guns Shotgun team, Chantry Stermer has been very successful as a member of the Jacksonville University shotgun team. Wishing her the best of luck as she seeks to represent the USA at the Paris Olympics.

Another former youth shotgun shooter, Hallie Vigil, recently graduated from West Texas A&M University, where she also competed on the collegiate shotgun team.

Several of our NRGSC shotgun shooters have been successful at various competitions. These folks include NRGSC member Dillon Pospisil who competes successfully throughout the state. In 2022 Dillon won the Resident Champion trophy by shooting 185/200 at The NRA Whittington Center.

NRGSC members Chris Fresquez, John Gillis, David Simerka, Lou Fresquez, along with Luke Fresquez placed 3rd of 25 teams at the 2023 NM Jr. Livestock Foundation sporting clays event in southern NM. Members Joe Becker and Chris Fresquez were part of a 4-person team that won the 2023 NM Veterans Integration Centers "Clays for a Cause" sporting clays event in southern NM.

The shotgun range provides a patterning frame for shooters to attach an approximately 3 ft. x 3 ft. cardboard to check the shotgun choke patterns of your shotgun. This frame is located north of the Skeet high house.

Club Match Schedule (check the [club calendar](#) for any changes to the match schedule)

Typical shooting times for trap, skeet and 5-Stand are as follows (note: these are winter hours; summer hours are 1 hour earlier)

- Tuesday 10:00 am Skeet and Trap
- Tuesday 4:00pm Skeet and Trap
- Thursday 10:00am Skeet and Trap
- Sunday 10:00am Skeet and Trap (except 5-Stand weekends)
- Third Sunday weekend of the month is typically the weekend we shoot 5-Stand.
 - Set up and practice on Friday afternoon
 - Shooting on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Shooters pay \$5 per 25 clay round of Trap/Skeet/5 Stand
- **The largest shot size allowed anywhere on the shotgun field is 7 ½ shot.**



Shooting Shotgun On Your Own

- Members may shoot clay targets at the range for no additional cost, other than at match times (listed above).
- Bring your own clay throwers and clay targets.

Our goals at the shotgun range are first and foremost, SAFETY, followed by improvement of shotgun skills, all while having an enjoyable time amongst fellow shooters and friends at the shotgun range.

David Krogdahl, Shotgun Range Director

Membership Report

As of January 7, 2024, we have:

- 331 renewals
- 87 new members
- Total: 418 NRGSC members

Minimizing liability risk at NRGSC is of paramount importance. Without an on-site range manager, we must all do our best to look out for each other and the facility.

Our first line of defense is our electronic gate access. Only members in good standing and their guests are covered by our insurance and as such, we all have to be alert for people accessing the property without badging in at the gate.



We all have to be on the lookout for folks tailgating others, walking around the gate, or people bringing more than their two per day, allowed guests. None of that is allowed.

It may seem like a nice gesture to allow another through the gate when they state that their gate card is not working. In reality, most of the time their card isn't working because they have not renewed their membership. Accordingly, they are not covered by our insurance and opens us up to huge risk.

If you arrive at the gate and it will not activate, please do not ask another member to badge you in. More than likely your membership has lapsed. Gate cards of those that don't renew by July 1st of each year are automatically deactivated. They are reactivated upon future renewal. Please email Clyde Mueller at secretary@nrgsc.org for the status of your membership if you are in doubt.

Please do not “tailgate” others through the gate. Wait for it to close behind each vehicle and badge yourself in.

Our guest policy was set up to be in alignment with accepted instructor to student ratios. It is reasonable that one person can only adequately monitor two others, especially if they have minimal firearms handling skills.

Please respect the limit of two guests per member so that you can give them your full attention while on the ranges.

Thank you all for your conscientious attention to these important procedures.

Clyde Mueller, Membership Secretary

Financial Report

Hello! My name is JD Wynne, and I am your club treasurer. I was asked by the Board last February to fill a vacancy in this position - so here I am!

I am pleased to report that our finances are in good shape. As our income is seasonal (membership dues), we have to plan our annual expenditures carefully to ensure we have sufficient funds to cover not only our routine operating costs (insurance, supplies, maintenance items, etc.), but also plan for bulk purchases of clays, and major projects. And we are committed to maintaining sufficient reserves to ensure we can cover any unplanned expenses that come up (e.g., replacing the well pump last year).

We completed a number of projects in 2023, including:

- Major grading of the entrance hill.
- Grading and more base course at the shotgun range parking lot.
- Installation of base course in the work shed.
- Extension of water and electricity to the rifle range.
- Purchase of a shed for rifle range target storage.
- Replacement of our well pump.
- Some general excavating/cleanup of the rifle and pistol ranges .
- Construction and installation of three pistol dueling trees.
- Construction and installation of steel targets on the rifle range (March completion planned).
- Various improvements and maintenance at the shotgun range (see shotgun section)
- Rebuild of the spent brass containers at the rifle and pistol ranges, and a live ammo disposal container at the rifle range (by the target shed).

These projects were completed mostly by volunteer club labor—which greatly reduced our costs. It is estimated that we saved the club in excess of \$30k last year by not having to use commercial labor. Considering our annual income is only about \$45k, you can quickly see how absolutely dependent we are on volunteer help, if we are to maintain and improve your club at our current level of membership dues.

Paul will be planning some workdays this year. If you can help, please join us - any (or no) skills are welcome!

If you have any other thoughts for (affordable) projects, let us know as we are planning our projects for the coming year.

JD Wynne, Treasurer



Guest Policy—Some Clarification

There has been a lot of confusion in regards to our guest policy. But it is now is very simple:

- Each member in good standing (the badge holder) is allowed to bring 2 guests per day as long as they are over the age of 8 yrs. old. There is no guest fee required.
- Each guest (shooting or non-shooting) must watch the safety training video and pass the safety quiz prior to entering the club. Each guest must print out and carry with them a copy of the completed quiz.
- Guests are only required to take the safety training once per membership year (July-June). There is no longer a requirement for guests to apply for a “one day” membership as this only applies to events open to nonmembers.
- Each guest must be under the constant supervision of the member they are accompanying. Responsibility for following NRGSC rules and procedures falls not only on the guest but squarely on the member who brought them.

Rifle Range Safety - Use of Steel Targets

One of the most discussed issues is shooting steel - whether proper plates or trash I-beams etc. We are not at all “anti-steel”, but we must address the longstanding ricochet problem. We have found hundreds of pieces of inappropriate old steel stands, posts, beat up plates, and trash steel scattered throughout the range. These have all been cleaned up and we are in the process of deploying several first-class steel plate assemblies at various locations.

We piloted a design in two locations, and now have a better design that we will deploy in four locations (200-500 yards) starting this month. Fabrication is nearing completion and locations for “target alcoves” have been determined. We will be coordinating a work day for March to install these as well as repair/replace existing target locations.

We will soon have multiple steel locations designed and installed to prevent most ricochets. Please refrain from placing or shooting at steel targets that are not NRGSC supplied/approved.

Support of Local Law Enforcement

In the past NRGSC has had a hand-shake agreement with the NM State Police Northern Patrol to conduct their required annual qualifications at our pistol bays. This served their basic needs but the most common complaint we heard was that the officers had no proper place to practice their skills outside of their annual qualifications.

We feel that it is valuable for us to support our community by devising a way for local officers to practice without excessive burden on our ranges. We have a new program in place to accomplish both goals. We feel that this is a valuable community service and hopefully will build more good will toward our organization.

Member FFL Holders

Members who have *non-commercial* sidelines which might be beneficial to other members, and/or who hold a Federal Firearms License are welcome to submit their name and phone number to editor@nrgsc.org for publication here.

Left the Range....

This section will be used to remember members who have recently passed away. If you know of any member that has passed away recently, please send his/her name, month of death (if known), and perhaps a few words in memory of them. Send to: editor@nrgsc.org

Advertise Your Business Here

Want to advertise your business to 400+ club members? Send a correctly sized jpg of your ad (see picture below) and your contact info to: editor@nrgsc.org. Specify the size ad you want run.

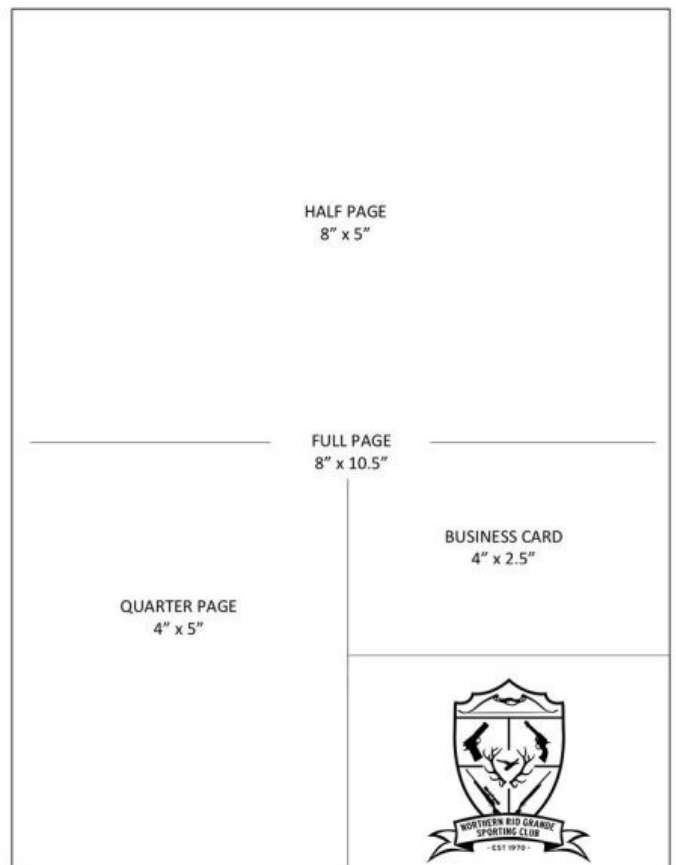
Once approved, the editor will advise you of the cost. You can then pay by clicking: <https://nrgsc.org/ads/>, or sending a check to the club's PO box (last page). The ad will not be run until payment is received.

If you might be interested in placing an ad in the future, send an email to editor@nrgsc.org and we will put you on a mailing list of current ad prices and deadline due dates.

The editor reserves the right to not approve any ad deemed inconsistent with NRGSC rules or principles, is improperly formatted, or if space is not available.

Current Ad Pricing

	Width	Height	Cost/Issue
Full Page	7-1/2"	10"	\$50
Half Page	7-1/2"	5"	\$25
Quarter Page	3-3/4"	5"	\$15
Business Card	3-3/4"	2-1/2"	\$10





Board of Directors and Range/Match Directors

Paul Dowden	President	president@nrgsc.org
Marshall Maez	Vice-President	vp@nrgsc.org
Clyde Mueller	Membership Secretary	secretary@nrgsc.org
JD Wynne	Treasurer	treasurer@nrgsc.org
Chris Fresquez	Director (1 year at-large)	
Justin Trowbridge	Director (2 year at-large)	
Bob Lopez	Director (3 year at-large)	
Jerome Martinez	Archery Range Director	
Marshall Maez	Rifle Range Director	
Open	Pistol Range Director	
Jim Harsh / Rick Lohsen	Muzzle Loader Director	
David Krogdahl	Shotgun Range Director	
JD Wynne	Newsletter Editor	editor@nrgsc.org

Anything you would like to see added to the newsletter? Send an email to the editor!

Club Website	nrgsc.org	Club Calendar:	nrgsc.org/calendar
Range Physical Address:	42 E. Arroyo Alamo, Espanola, NM 87532		
Club Mailing Address:	P.O Box 5133, Santa Fe, NM 87502 (use the P.O Box for all mailings)		